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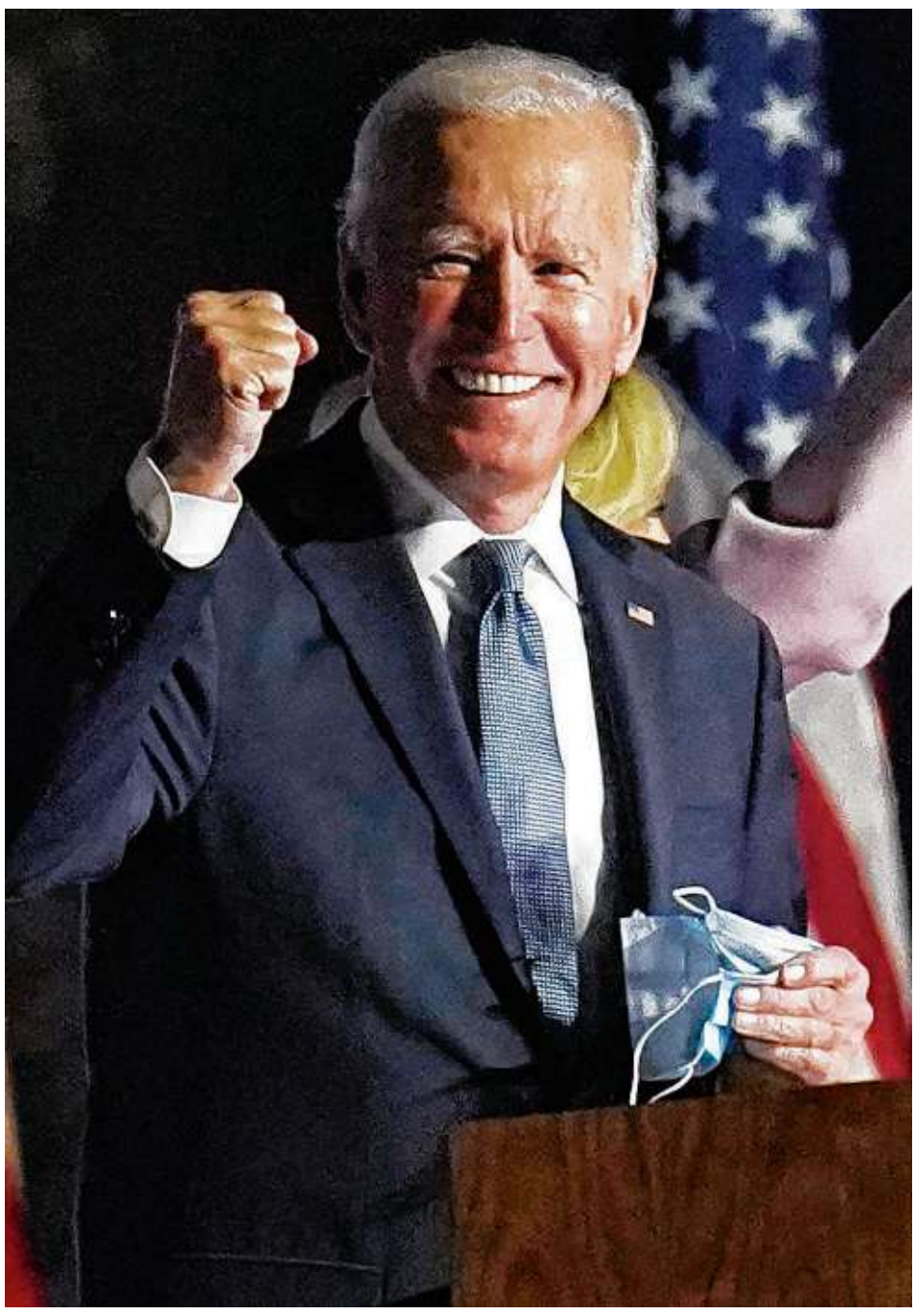
NAIL-BITER

PRESIDENTIAL RACE TOO CLOSE TO CALL

AMERICANS TURN OUT TO POLLS IN RECORD NUMBERS



Paul Sancya / Associated Press

Evan Vucci / Associated Press

224 JOE BIDEN (D) — 270 TO WIN — (R) DONALD TRUMP 213

Trump carries Texas for a second time

By Jeremy Wallace
AUSTIN BUREAU

President Donald Trump proved Tuesday that Texas is still plenty red.

Despite Democrats' vows to flip the state blue for the first time in decades, Trump was poised to win more than 230 of the state's 254 counties, a victory he had been predicting for over year. As of 11:30 p.m., Trump had a 6 percentage-point lead over Biden in what promised to be the 11th consecutive presidential election in which Republicans have carried the Lone Star State.

When polls showed Texas close this summer, Trump told supporters during a trip to West Texas in July not to believe it.

"We're many points up," Trump said then.

His confidence was based on the oil and gas industry that employed nearly 430,000 Texans in 2019, which he repeatedly warned would be in further jeopardy if Democrat Joe Biden were to win the election.

From a strategic standpoint, the Trump campaign said Democrats underestimated the

Texas continues on A7

ELECTION 2020

TURNING OUT
Ever-growing Harris County sets record for ballots cast. **A3**

TEXAS HOUSE
Republicans all but certain to keep majority. **A4**

STATE COURTS
GOP set to keep seven benches in Texas. **A5**

LEGAL FIGHT
GOP keeping legal options open in Pennsylvania. **A11**

Tight races remain in Northern states

By Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller, Jill Colvin and Alexandra Jaffe
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump carried Florida, the nation's most prized battleground state, and he and Democrat Joe Biden focused early Wednesday on the three Northern industrial states – Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania – that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

Four years after Trump became the first Republican in a generation to capture that trio of states, they were again positioned to influence the direction of the presidential election. Trump kept several states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign.

By early Wednesday, neither candidate had the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win. The tight overall contest reflected a deeply polarized nation struggling to respond to the worst health crisis in more than a century,

Swing states continues on A7

U.S. SENATE

Cornyn beats Hegar to snatch fourth term

By Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, one of the top Republicans in the Senate, is heading back to D.C. for a fourth term.

Democratic challenger MJ Hegar, a former Air Force pilot, conceded the race about 8 p.m. Tuesday and was trailing by nearly 10 percentage points at 10:30 p.m.

Cornyn, a former state attorney general and Texas Supreme Court justice, vowed to represent all Texans – "whether I earned your vote or whether you were pulling for my opponent."

"My goal as your United States senator is simple: continue to make Texas a

Cornyn continues on A9

Eric Gay / Associated Press

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn beat Democratic challenger and political newcomer MJ Hegar.

CONGRESS

Dems, GOP locked in Senate standoff

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The battle for control of the Senate tightened Tuesday after Democrats picked up a seat in Colorado but suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in high-profile races in South Carolina, Texas and Kansas, narrowing the political map.

Republicans fought to retain their Senate majority against a surge of Democrats challenging President Donald Trump's allies. Both parties saw paths to victory, but the Democrats' were narrowing. With several races still too early to call, and one Georgia contest heading to a January runoff, the final ver-

Senate continues on A9

PRECINCT 3
Republican Ramsey wins big over Moore. **A3**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Ogg grabs second term over Huffman. **A3**

ROUNDUP
Democrats lead in county administrative races. **A3**

U.S. HOUSE
Dems push to extend hold for two more years. **A10**

STATE RACES
Both parties battle for governor, legislative seats. **A10**